

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 EB-11 ACDA-19 DODE-00

OMB-01 RSR-01 /137 W

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R 251645 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4680

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 5970

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, YO

SUBJECT: BRANDT VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

REF: BELGRADE 1730

BEGIN SUMMARY: FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR, VAN WELL,
WHO WAS MEMBER OF FRG DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING CHANCELLOR
BRANDT, TOLD AMBASSADOR APRIL 24 THAT FRG WAS GREATLY
IMPRESSED BY ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT AND OBVIOUS
IMPORTANCE YUGOSLAVS ATTACHED TO IT. GERMANS ARE
PLEASED WITH SOLUTION FOUND FOR INDEMNIFICATION PROBLEM,
WHICH THEY REGARD AS DEFINITIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE MATTER
AND WHICH THEY BELIEVE WILL HELP TO REDUCE PRESSURES
FROM OTHER EE COUNTRIES FOR COMPENSATION PAYMENTS.
END SUMMARY

1. VAN WELL SAID BOTH THE PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR
THE VISIT AND THE HIGH LEVEL OF YUGOSLAV ATTENDANCE AT
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ALL MEETINGS, IN BELGRADE AND BRIONI, HAD IMPRESSED UPON THE GERMAN GUESTS HOW IMPORTANT THE BRANDT VISIT WAS FOR YUGOSLAVIA. THE YUGOSLAVS CLEARLY HAD A STRONG INTEREST IN INTENSIFYING THEIR ALL- ROUND RELATIONS WITH THE FRG. THEY WANTED TO GIVE THOSE RELATIONS A " LONG- TERM ASPECT", INTER ALIA BY ENTERING INTO LARGE JOINT PROJECTS WHICH WOULD TIE THE ECONOMIES AND SOCIETIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER AND WOULD PROVIDE FOR A STEADY GROWTH OF SUCH TIES -- I. E. A KIND OF " SNOWBALL EFFECT".

2. FOR THE GERMAN SIDE, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT RESULTS OF THE VISIT WAS THE AGREEMENT TO DROP ANY FUTURE DISCUSSION OF FRG INDEMNIFICATION TO YUGOSLAVIA FOR DAMAGES STEMMING FROM THE WORLD WAR II PERIOD AND INSTEAD TO OVERCOME THE PAST THROUGH LONG- TERM COOPERATION LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE. THIS SOLUTION TO THE LONG- STANDING " AGREEMENT TO DISAGREE" ON THE INDEMNIFICATION ISSUE WAS MOST WELCOME TO THE FRG, VAN WELL SAID, NOT LEAST BECAUSE IT WOULD HELP TO MAKE CLEAR TO BONN'S OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN INTERLOCUTORS THAT THE FRG CAN NO LONGER BE EXPECTED, AT THIS LATE STAGE, TO ATONE FOR THE SINS OF THE THIRD REICH BY LARGE CASH PAYMENTS AND THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD NOT PROVIDE A SOUND BASIS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION. THE AGREEMENT WITH THE YUGOSLAVS WAS NOT A FORGONE CONCLUSION, VAN WELL SAID. PRIME MINISTER BIJEDIC HAD STARTED OUT IN THE BELGRADE MEETINGS WITH A BLUNT DEMAND FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON INDEMNIFICATION AND BRANDT REPLIED WITH AN EQUALLY BLUNT STATEMENT THAT THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE. AFTER THE PASSAGE OF SO MANY YEARS, BRANDT SAID, WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE FRG'S POPULATION HAVING BEEN BORN AFTER THE WAR AND WITH 30- YEAR OLDS NOW SERVING IN THE BUNDESTAG, THE WEST GERMAN PEOPLE WOULD NO LONGER UNDERSTAND SUCH A MOVE. IT WAS NECESSARY TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND NOT TO THE PAST. VAN WELL SAID THAT BRANDT'S POSITION WAS EVIDENTLY REPORTED ACCURATELY AND IN DETAIL TO TITO WHO, AFTER THE CHANCELLOR ARRIVED IN BRIONI, REVERSED THE POSITION TAKEN BY HIS SUBORDINATES AND SAID THAT HE FULLY AGREED WITH BRANDT. THEY THEREUPON WORKED OUT THE COMMUNIQUE FORMULA:

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BEGIN TEXT: BOTH SIDES ARE AGREED THAT, ON THE BASIS OF THE LEVEL OF RELATIONS THAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AND ON THE BASIS OF THE CONFIDENCE CREATED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRUITFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM, THE REMAINING OPEN QUESTIONS FROM THE PAST CAN BE SOLVED IN A MANNER WHICH TAKES ACCOUNT OF THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

THEY HAVE AGREED THAT THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH LONG- TERM COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC AREA AND IN OTHER AREAS, CONCERNING WHICH FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WILL BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END TEXT.

3. BRANDT TOLD THE YUGOSLAVS THAT THE FRG WAS BEGINNING TO RECOGNIZE THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF GUEST WORKERS CREATED CERTAIN PROBLEMS FOR THE COUNTRY' S INFRASTRUCTURE AND THAT THE FRG WOULD CONSEQUENTLY TRY TO FREEZE THE NUMBERS OF SUCH WORKERS AT APPROXIMATELY THEIR PRESENT LEVEL. THE YUGOSLAVS MADE CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THE NUMBER OF YUGOSLAVIAN GUEST WORKERS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED; THE CURRENT FIGURE OF ABOUT 500,000 WAS FINE BY THEM. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND MENTIONED THE REPORTED INCLINATION OF YUGOSLAV GUEST WORKERS TO KEEP THEIR SAVINGS IN GERMAN BANKS RATHER THAN REPATRIATING THEM. VAN WELL ACKNOWLEDGED THIS BUT DID NOT VOLUNTEER ANY INFORMATION ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LEVEL OF GUEST WORKERS' ACCOUNTS AND THE SUMS WHICH THE FRG WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO YUGOSLAVIA WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF LONG- TERM COOPERATION (PARA 8 REFTEL).

4. VAN WELL MENTIONED THAT THE GERMANS HAD EXPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH THE FRG' S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE HUNGARIAN PROBLEM IN MBFR. HE SAID THAT THE YUGOSLAVS HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE SINCE THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF HUNGARY IN THE FIELD OF CONSTRAINTS WAS OF OBVIOUS INTEREST TO BELGRADE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE AMBASSADOR, VAN WELL SAID THAT TITO FOR ALL HIS 81 YEARS APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD FORM AND OBVIOUSLY IN COMMAND OF THE SITUATION. AS AN EXAMPLE, VAN WELL CITED TITO' S FIRM REACTION WHEN
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN05970
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: CORE6
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730453/aaaaiyfg.tel
Line Count: 153
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BELGRADE 1730
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980203
Subject: BRANDT VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA
TAGS: PFOR, GW, YO
To: BELGRADE
EUR
LONDON
MOSCOW
NATO BRUSSELS
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005